

CHAPTER 9

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The New Hampshire Coastal Program received initial approval in June, 1982 for the ocean and harbor segment of the coastal area. During the first phase of program implementation, effort was concentrated on nine district policy areas. These were:

- * natural resource areas protection;
- * fisheries management;
- * water quality protection;
- * erosion control;
- * recreation and public access;
- * historic and cultural resources;
- * ports, harbors and water dependent uses;
- * public investments; and
- * coastal coordination.

The Coastal Program provided funds to conduct the following types of tasks:

- * Improve state agency permitting, monitoring and enforcement activities to protect coastal resources and to manage development.
- * Coordinate State and federal activities to promote consistency with state coastal policies.
- * Improve management of state coastal properties.
- * Ensure public participation and information on coastal issues.
- * Undertake refinements of state regulations and management guidelines to improve effective state agency decision-making.

State Agencies

The Coastal Program will continue to provide funding to state agencies with regulatory and management responsibilities regarding coastal related resources. Specific state agencies expected to receive coastal funds include the Office of State Planning, the Wetlands Board, the Water Supply and Pollution Control Division. Depending on the management issue to be addressed other organizations may receive funding, such as, the Port

Authority, the Fish and Game Department, and the Department of Resources and Economic Development. In addition, the coastal program will work with and support the activities of the Council on Resources and Development in the coastal area.

Local Involvement:

The voluntary participation of local government is encouraged by the coastal program through funding of local resource management projects and planning studies and also by providing technical assistance and working cooperatively to solve specific coastal problems. Communities eligible for assistance to address important local coastal issues include: Seabrook, Hampton, Hampton Falls, North Hampton, Rye, New Castle, Portsmouth, Rollinsford, Dover, Madbury, Durham, Newmarket, Newfields, Exeter, Stratham, Greenland, and Newington.

With the inclusion of the Great Bay communities in the approved coastal program, some changes in program emphasis will become necessary because of the different character of the estuarine environments as compared to the ocean and harbor segment. However, much of the focus on management activities will remain the same, but expanded in geographic scope to encompass ten additional communities. All municipalities must address issues within or directly related to the coastal zone that relate to the policies in Chapter 3.

The six Topics identified in Chapter 3 will provide the framework for structuring activities as part of continuing coastal program implementation. These Topics are:

1. Natural Resources;
2. Recreation and Public Access;
3. Managing Coastal Development;
4. Coastal Dependent Uses;
5. Historic and Cultural Resources; and
6. Marine and Estuarine Research and Education.

The focus of the coastal program in furthering the policies under these Topics is described below. This focus services as a general guideline in directing coastal program implementation.

1. Natural Resources - Continue to carry out and improve upon protection of natural resource areas including coastal and estuarine waters, tidal wetlands, floodplains, beaches, sand dunes, rocky shores, fish and wildlife and their habitat, rare and endangered species, and unique natural areas.

2. Recreation and Public Access - Maintenance and improvement of coastal recreation and public access continues to be an important objective of the coastal program. In the Atlantic coast area, public access for swimming and boating are generally much different issues than in the Great Bay area, where the need to enhance existing boating access and provide passive recreation

areas, is more important.

3. Managing Coastal Development - Wise management of coastal development is an emerging issue in the Great Bay where large, undeveloped land holdings and scattered residential uses predominate. The coastal program will concentrate on maintaining the rural quality and natural beauty which characterize this estuary through coordination with state agencies and CORD to limit state capital investment actions which might spur inappropriate development on lands adjacent to the Bay. Along the Atlantic shoreline, approximately 95 percent of the coast is either public land or is developed in private ownership. Management activities are therefore confined to a narrower band of concern, namely development of the remaining five percent of open land and redevelopment of the already developed areas.

4. Coastal Dependent Uses - Along the Atlantic shoreline, three harbors - Portsmouth, Rye and Hampton provide facilities to support a variety of commercial, recreational and industrial uses that require direct access to coastal waters. Several commercial waterfront areas exist on the tidal rivers in Exeter, Newmarket, Dover and Newington. The program will continue to support state and local efforts to maintain and improve areas and facilities which provide for water dependent uses.

5. Preservation of historic and cultural resources - The New Hampshire coastal area contains a rich reservoir of places and structures of historic importance. Considerable CZMA financial assistance has already been channeled to protecting significant historic properties in Portsmouth and other coastal communities. Expansion of the program to encompass the mill complexes within the coastal boundary in Dover and Newmarket and historic districts in other communities increases the need to focus attention on this policy.

6. Marine and estuarine research and education - Research on the critical problems affecting the marine and estuarine environments in the New Hampshire has been supported with coastal program funds. Continued efforts of a research nature should continue to receive funding assistance particularly where they are associated with recommending solutions to identified problems. The coastal program should likewise continue its support of educational activities to heighten public awareness and understanding of coastal resources and their management.

It must be recognized that the New Hampshire Coastal Program is intended to address the changing problems and needs in the New Hampshire coast. For this reason, the program must be flexible.

The basic guidelines outlined above will remain. However, specific priorities for actual project selection for coastal funding, in future program years, shall be established on a yearly basis by the Office of State Planning in consultation with the Council on Resources and Development, state and local agencies, and the coastal advisory committee. Funding in future years will be determined by the amount of Federal funds made available by Congress.

Program Funding

A major incentive provided to states by Congress under the Coastal Zone Management Act has been financial assistance. This assistance has been available to states since 1975 on a voluntary basis, both to develop and to implement a state coastal management program. The assistance provides an incentive to states to look at their coastline and develop a program to manage this area in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion.

The federal Coastal Zone Management Act provides for assistance in a variety of areas. Each of the major types of assistance are summarized as follows:

Program Development (Section 305) - Congress authorized funds through 1979 for states to develop coastal management programs. New Hampshire received funding under this provision of the Act between 1974 and 1980.

Program Administration (Section 306) - After a state has developed a program which meets its needs and is consistent with the requirements of the federal act, it is eligible to apply for funds to implement its program. Congress annually appropriated approximately \$33 million for FY 82 through FY 85. The amount of funding available to a state under Section 306 is determined through a yearly grant application process. New Hampshire received an initial grant of \$400,000 per year under Section 306 for the first three years. The funding has varied based upon the number of states participating in the program, and the amount of funding appropriated by Congress.

Federal CZM funds which are allocated to New Hampshire must be matched at a federal to state which decreases with each year. This matching share can be comprised of either cash or in-kind services. The matching share requirement must be met by the Office of State Planning and state, regional or local agencies receiving pass-through funds. Eligible uses if these are further discussed below.

Resource Management Improvement (Section 306 A) - As a part of the Coastal Zone Management Act, Congress established a new section to provide financial assistance for (1) acquisition of public access to beach and shoreline areas, (2) the redevelopment of deteriorating and underutilized urban waterfronts and ports in designated geographic areas of particular concern (GAPC), and (3) preservation and restoration projects in designated areas for preservation and restoration (APR). Funding for Section 306(a) projects has been approved by Congress for FY 1985 grants.

Coastal Energy Impact Program (CEIP) (Section 308) - Congress authorized CEIP funds in 1978 to meet the needs associated with energy development in coastal states. New Hampshire received planning, formula, and OCS participation grants under Section 308 to address a range of local and state coastal energy development problems. Although Section 308 is still authorized, funds have not been appropriated by Congress since 1981.

Estuarine Reserves and Island Preservation (Section 315) - This section of the Act is geared to the acquisition, development and operation of estuarine

reserves and island preservation. New Hampshire was awarded a preacquisition planning grant to develop a management program for an Estuarine Research Reserve in Great Bay and has subsequently additional funds and formal approval.

Eligible Activities Under 306 and 306A Funding:

The activities which are eligible for funding are based upon both federal and state program objectives. Grants which meet the federal regulations for this section may be used for 1) land acquisition, 2) low cost construction projects, 3) urban waterfront and port rehabilitation projects, 4) engineering and design studies and 5) educational and management costs. Congress also requires that coastal states expend an increasing proportion of each Section 306 grant to meet national coastal management objectives. These objectives are:

1. the protection of natural resources;
2. the management of development to minimize loss of life and property;
3. priority consideration for the siting of coastal dependent facilities;
4. provision of public access to coastal areas;
5. redevelopment of deteriorating urban waterfronts and ports;
6. the coordination and simplification of decision-making procedures;
7. continued consultation and coordination with federal agencies;
8. continued public participation in coastal management decision-making, and
9. assistance and support for the management and conservation of living marine resources.

Since many of the national coastal management concerns are also New Hampshire concerns, they have been, and will continue to be routinely addressed in the state program. Consequently, program funds will be utilized to implement the state coastal policies and priorities through existing agency programs. Coastal funding, under Section 306, will be used as follows:

- to increase the implementation and enforcement capabilities of existing state programs which protect natural coastal resources, manage activities which affect coastal resources, provide public recreation, access and water dependent facilities, enhance urban waterfronts, protect historic resources, and promote water dependent activities;
- to coordinate state agency actions in the coast through CORD and OSP, including coordination of state investment decisions, refinement of coastal policies and priorities, and further development of procedures to coordinate agency actions and resolve conflicts;

- to coordinate state and federal agency actions in the coast, with priority given to state implementation of the federal consistency provisions of the CZMA;
- to improve local government capabilities in addressing coastal management issues (See Chapter 6); and
- to ensure public information and participation in coastal management through the support of a coastal advisory committee and an active public information and technical assistance program.

It should be noted that these are only some of the key types of activities which could receive funding. While federal coastal funds can be utilized for implementing existing state programs, these funds cannot be substituted for current state funding. Specific priorities for actual project selection are established on a yearly basis by Office of State Planning in consultation with the Coastal Advisory Committee, state and local agencies, and the Council on Resources and Development.